ROBOTS, ALIENS AND DOOMSDAY

HALLE BERRY HEADS BACK TO TV FOR "EXTANT." PAGE 20

metro

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'Riding' for office

Politics. After leading the team that launched Indego bike-share service, Andrew Stober (pictured top left) quit city government to run as an Independent for City Council. PAGE 02

Independent City Council at-large candidate Andrew Stober is seen biking with Mayor Michael Nutter at the launch of Indego bike share in April. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Pope's Philly itinerary revealed

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76ers have triple towers, but also several holes

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The best of Metro.us

1 'Playing the field: Hope Solo calls out Brandi Chastain'

2 'Senator Cruz thinks states should ignore SCOTUS' same-sex marriage ruling'

3 '"Magic Mike XXL" is basically the ideal summer movie'

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Stober's approach to politics focuses on city

City Council. This Independent candidate hopes to knock out one of the Republicans holding the two at-large seats reserved for minority parties.

Andrew Stober, candidate for City Council, opened up to Metro about his run. / RANDI FAIR, METRO

Andrew Stober says he sees city politics as not a Democratic or Republican enterprise. That's why he's running as an Independent.

The former chief of staff to the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, Stober, 37, of South Philly, announced his candidacy two weeks ago — and just months after the launch of the Indego Philly bike-share service that he developed.

Longtime political observer Larry Ceisler said the time may be ripe for a third-party candidate to enter City Council.

"It's something that's never been done," Ceisler said. "But I think Andrew has a very good profile for this and I think there is an opportunity for an Independent to win."

But Philly Republican City Committee Executive Director Joseph Defelice said City Council needs more, not fewer Republicans.

"I don't know what more he's going to be able to do to influence Harrisburg to help out Philadelphia," he said. "What we need is people who are able to talk to Republicans. Right now they hire lobbyists to go to talk to the Republicans."

Metro asked Stober why he might be a good fit for City Council.

What would be your goals in City Council?
I want to be a strong, clear and consistent voice for public schools. I am going to make sure that our property taxes are being fairly and accurately assessed and that we're having a serious conversation about collecting unpaid taxes. I'm going to make sure that we're investing in our community's infrastructure; that's our streets, parks and our libraries.

Why are you running as an Independent?
When it comes to local government, the solutions to the challenges we face aren't Democratic solutions or Republican solutions. These decisions are not ideology-driven; they should be driven by someone who understand the city they live in, understands how government works and understand how to use efficiently the tax dollars that are sent to City Hall.

What do you hope to achieve with Philly schools?
Public primary schools should be points of neighborhood pride. Parents should feel comfortable sending their kids to their neighborhood public school. Strong neighborhood high schools need to be hubs of community activity, and safe and vibrant environments where young people can prepare for college and the workforce.

To what do you attribute the success of the Indego bike-share service?
We built a program with a set of policies that works for Philadelphians, and guess what? They're using it in droves. That's exactly what I think voters want from their City Councilperson — they don't want City Council members who shoot from the hip, who don't study the best practices of other cities, who don't understand or who their answer is "Well, that's not how it works in Philadelphia." You want to look at other cities, figure out what they're doing well and figure out how you can bring that to Philadelphia.

Quoted

"He's not some political hack, he's a professional; he has a stake in the city, he did very good and important work for Mayor Nutter ... he might have a chance."

Larry Ceisler, political observer

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Education. Mayoral commission to study universal pre-K

Parents in Philadelphia got one step closer to having universal access for every 3- and 4-year-old to pre-kindergarten services.

Mayor Nutter announced Tuesday the launch of the Commission on Universal Pre-Kindergarten, consisting of 17 members.

"This commission will address, head on, one of the major challenges facing Philadelphia — how to educate our children," Nutter said. "They will also make proposals on how to pay for programming."

The commission, which was formed after voters approved a ballot question in May to create it, has hit the ground running as they met for the first time before Nutter's announcement.

The commission members consist of five officials appointed by Nutter, five appointed by City Council, two City Council members and five other stakeholders from the city and state.

The plan seeks to implement what has already been established in other major U.S. cities such as New York City, Boston and San Francisco.

Education leaders are expecting to rely on the state to provide most of the funding for this program. Gov. Tom Wolf allocated $120 million in his proposed state budget for pre-K programs, but it remains to be seen if that will be delivered.

The results of the commission's work are due to be delivered to the mayor and City Council by April 2016.

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Pope unveils September US schedule

His Holiness. An East Harlem school and a Philly prison will be among the stops when the Holy Father visits.

A schedule released by the Vatican on Tuesday details Pope Francis' itinerary for his upcoming journey to the United States.

The schedule for what the Vatican calls the "2015 Apostolic Journey of Pope Francis to the United States of America" details every stop on Francis' tour of New York, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia after arriving from Cuba on Sept. 22.

Online

For a complete schedule, visit Metro.us.

Along with visits to Catholic charities and visits with members of U.S. clergy, Francis will meet with President Obama at the White House at 9:15 a.m. on Sept. 23 and address Congress the following morning on Sept. 24.

Francis will end the trip with two days in Philadelphia for the conclusion of the 2015 World Meeting of Families.

He will attend Mass at the Cathedral Basilica SS Peter and Paul, visit Independence Mall and visit the World Meeting of Families festivities on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

On Sunday, Sept. 27, he will visit Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, a city jail, before beginning the papal mass at 4 p.m. for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families.

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Pope Francis is Philly-bound. GETTY IMAGES

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Dog death. NJ dog groomer charged

"Harley," in December 2014, three months before he sustained an injury while at a dog groomer's that led to his euthanization. / BURLINGTON COUNTY SPCA

A dog groomer in Bordentown, New Jersey, was hit with animal cruelty charges after a dog died from injuries allegedly sustained while getting a haircut.

Crosstown Clippers is facing charges of causing the death or serious injury of an animal and failing to provide necessary care, the Burlington County SPCA Humane Police announced yesterday.

According to the Burlington County SPCA, "Harley," a 10-year-old Airedale, was brought to the groomer walking on a leash on Feb. 21, 2015.

Three hours later, Harley was unable to stand and had to be carried into its owner's vehicle, the SPCA says.

According to the SPCA, the groomers found the dog lying on the floor unable to stand after he sustained an undisclosed injury, but they didn't call for emergency veterinary services.

"After a long period of unsuccessful attempts to rehabilitate Harley, the decision was made to have him humanely euthanized," the Burlington County SPCA said in a statement.

No further details about the nature of the injury Harley sustained were available.

But the cat and dog grooming shop's owner, Sarah Bruccoleri, denied that they played any part in Harley's death.

"This complaint is meritless and we intend to defeat it in court," Bruccoleri told Metro. "We at Crosstown Clippers have provided excellent service to hundreds of customers in the Burlington area and in 10 years, we have never had a complaint."

The case will be heard in court on July 22.

SAM NEWHOUSE

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Mt. Airy

Cops find car of murdered senior

Police discovered the vehicle of an 85-year-old murder victim dumped six miles from her East Mt. Airy home Tuesday, but as of press time had made no arrests.

Regina Brunner, 85, was found on Monday by her son beaten and with her throat slashed, in her bed in her home on the 300 block of East Roumfort Road.

Police believe she may have been killed in a robbery. Her ATM card was used twice on Sunday, NBC reported.

There were no signs of forced entry to the home, reports say, and the home's interior was untouched.

Brunner's car, a 2007 Toyota Corolla, was discovered Tuesday by two rookie cops on their second unsupervised shift on North Stillman Street near Allegheny Avenue. METRO

Top 10 most dangerous intersections for Philly pedestrians

Vision Zero. The group hopes to make policy changes to bring Philadelphia's traffic fatalities and serious injuries down to —you got it — zero.

A new report, Vision Zero, details the most dangerous intersections in Philly, and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia hopes the findings will spur serious changes to the city's streets.

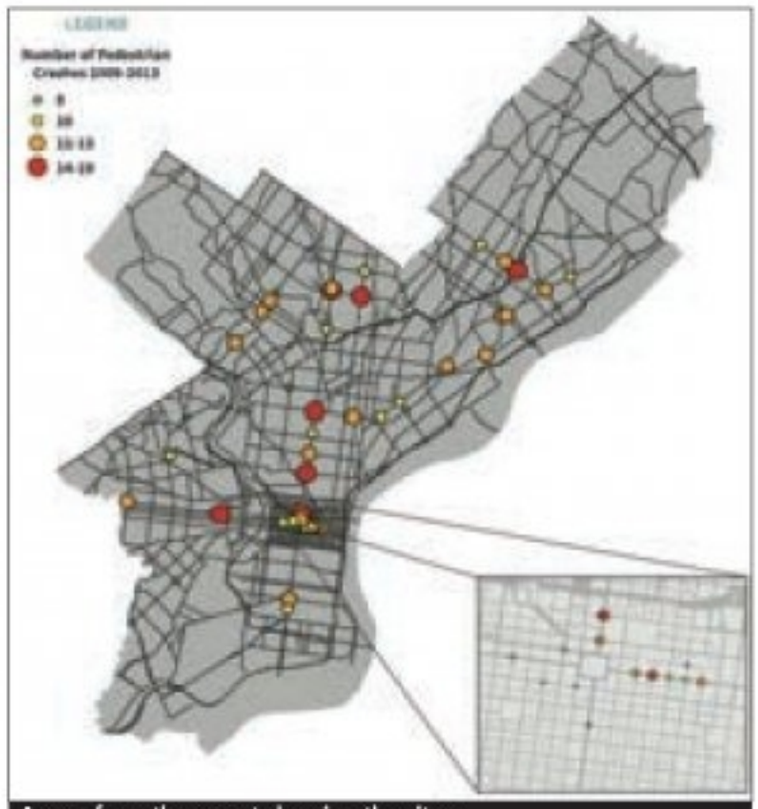
Each year in Philadelphia about 100 people die in traffic-related accidents. According to the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, about every five hours a pedestrian is hit by a car in Philadelphia.

Several cities nationwide have adopted proposals like Vision Zero, including New York, Boston and Chicago.

Still, even the BCGP admits the plan's ambitious goal does sound "radical."

Yet since other cities have already enacted such policies, the BCGP says Vision Zero is certainly doable. The question is whether or not Philadelphians are willing to change.

To get an accurate picture of the problem addressed by Vision Zero, BCGP culled data from the federal government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and other agencies, putting the data in to one coherent report. JOSH KRUGER, CITY PAPER



A map from the report showing the sites of the most-frequent accidents. / PROVIDED

Safety first

Components of the plan include changing streetscapes to make them more pedestrian and bicyclist friendly.

Top 10

The most dangerous intersections:

1. Fifth Street and Olney Avenue (19 crashes).
2. Broad and Race streets (17 crashes).
3. Broad Street and Girard Avenue (16 crashes).
4. Cottman Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard (16 crashes).
5. Broad Street and Olney Avenue (16 crashes).
6. Broad Street and Lehigh Avenue (16 crashes).
7. Market and 40th streets (15 crashes).
8. Market and 11th streets (14 crashes).
9. Chelten and Wayne avenues (13 crashes).
10. Market and 12th streets (13 crashes).

- Another intersection of note: Cobbs Creek, Market Street and 63rd Street intersection.

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Secret Service

White House fence gets spiky under security enhancement

The White House fence will start to get a spiked top on Wednesday in a short-term bid to thwart intrusions at the U.S. executive mansion, authorities said.

The "removable anti-climb feature" with sharp metal points will be bolted on top of the black iron fence by the U.S. Secret Service and National Park Service, the agencies said in a statement on Tuesday.

"These temporary measures are meant to satisfy security needs while a long-term solution is designed and implemented," it said.

The feature was designed by the Secret Service and built by the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. Work is expected to take about six weeks.

The changes were sparked by a September intrusion when an Iraq war veteran carrying a knife scaled the fence, ran across the North Lawn and entered the residence before being tackled by a Secret Service officer.

The incident was one of several embarrassing breaches for the agency, which is responsible for the security of President Barack Obama. It led to the resignation of the agency's director.

The Secret Service has released photos of the new "pencil point" spikes that will be bolted to the top of the fence and face outward at a 5-degree angle.

REUTERS

Twelve prison employees put on leave after escape

Gov. Andrew Cuomo talks to prison officials as he's shown the path that two convicted murderers used on June 6, 2014, to escape from Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NewYork. / GETTY IMAGES

Practice. David Sweat completed a test run before the prison escape.

Salary

132,040

Steven Racette earns $132,040 as superintendent of the Clinton Correctional Facility.

The superintendent and 11 other workers have been put on leave at Clinton Correctional Facility after a pair of inmates escaped early this month, setting off a three-week-long manhunt, family members and New York state officials said on Tuesday.

The maximum security prison in Dannemora, New York, was at the center of a massive search for the escaped murderers.

Three members of the executive team and nine security staff employees of the maximum-security facility were placed on administrative leave, the department announced on Tuesday. A department spokeswoman declined to identify any of the suspended employees by name or job title.

Superintendent Steven Racette was, however, among the prison officials placed on administrative leave, a woman who identified herself as his wife told Reuters on Tuesday.

"He's been placed on administrative leave," said the woman who answered the phone at their Saranac Lake home. "We have no other comment."

State Assistant Commissioner for Correctional Facilities James O'Gorman will oversee the facility "as the new leadership team transitions this week," a department statement said.

David Sweat, 35, told investigators he completed a test run before they made their elaborate escape from Clinton Correctional Facility.

REUTERS

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Christie launches bid, promises straight talk

2016 election.
Christie is the 14th Republican to vie for the nomination to be the party's candidate.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie launched an uphill run for the Republican presidential nomination on Tuesday with his trademark brashness, offering up his blunt talk and willingness to tackle tough issues as the cure for Washington dysfunction.

Christie, once seen as a leading 2016 White House contender but now viewed as a long shot, said his dose of New Jersey straight talk could help span the partisan divide to solve difficult political problems.

"I mean what I say and I say what I mean, and that's what America needs right now," Christie told friends, family and supporters at the campaign launch at his old high school in suburban Livingston, New Jersey.

Chris Christie / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Truth and hard decisions today will lead to growth and opportunity tomorrow." Christie

The 52-year-old, two-term governor criticized the "bickering" leaders of both parties, and derided what he called Democratic President Barack Obama's "hand-wringing and indecisiveness and weakness in the Oval Office."

"Both parties have failed our country," said Christie. "Both parties have led us to believe that in America, a country built on compromise, that somehow 'compromise' is a dirty word."

The campaign launch gave Christie a chance to rejuvenate his sagging opinion poll numbers and recast his battered image after last year's "Bridgegate" lane closure scandal.

He has seen his standing in national polls in the Republican race dip to the low single digits. His approval ratings in his home state have fallen to new lows amid a series of credit downgrades and weak job growth. REUTERS

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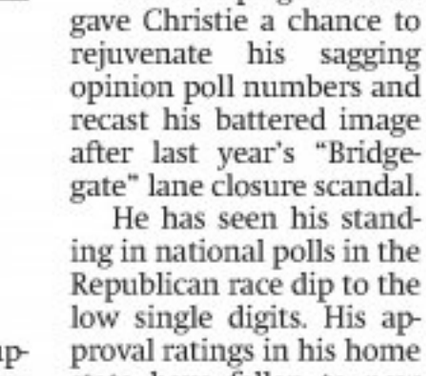

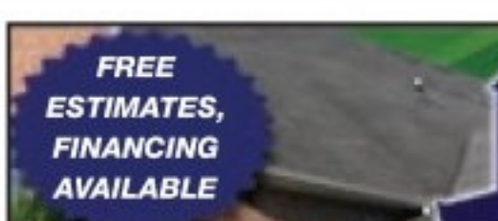

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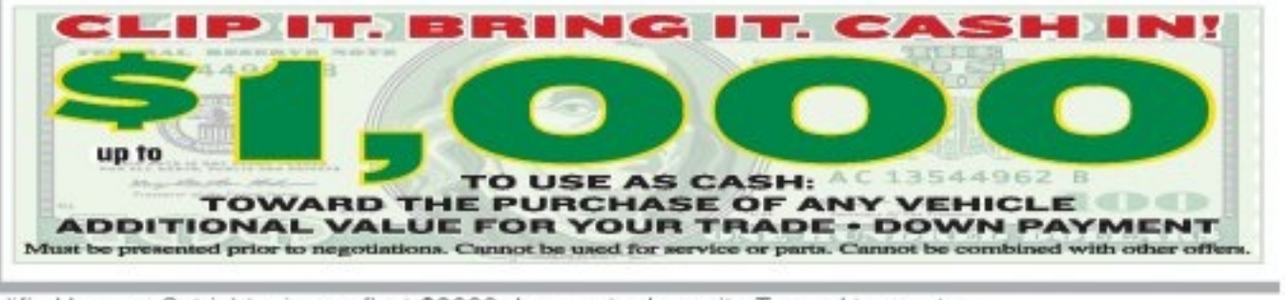
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Five things you need to know

1 Justice Dept. cites missteps by police during Ferguson unrest

Police responding to race-related protests and riots in Ferguson, Missouri, last summer made a series of missteps, including antagonizing crowds with attack dogs and military-style tactics, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The report focuses on the tactics of police from Ferguson, St. Louis, St. Louis County and the Missouri Highway Patrol. All four agencies tried to quell the protests and riots that broke out after a white Ferguson police officer shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, on Aug. 9, 2014.

A county grand jury declined to indict Officer Darren Wilson for killing 18-year-old Brown, and the Justice Department said no charges would be brought. But Brown's death set off months of protests about police treatment of minorities that expanded to cities around the country.

The use of dogs for crowd control during the protests in Ferguson incited fear and anger in the crowd, according to the report, while the use of tear gas on people without warning in areas from which there was no safe retreat was also a problem. REUTERS

Police attempt to control demonstrators. /GETTY IMAGES

2 Indonesia's air force grounds Hercules planes after deadly crash

Indonesia's air force has temporarily grounded its remaining eight C-130B Hercules aircraft, a military spokesman said on Tuesday, after one of them crashed into a residential area, killing dozens.

At least 116 people are dead as bodies have been recovered from the site in northern Indonesia's city of Medan, where the aircraft with 113 on board crashed. REUTERS

3 Ku Klux Klan plans pro-Confederate flag rally in SC

The Ku Klux Klan plans to hold a pro-Confederate flag rally at the South Carolina Capitol, where a man was arrested on Monday night in a confrontation with anti-flag protesters over a symbol associated with slavery.

The Civil War-era flag has emerged as a flashpoint after a shooting that killed nine people at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The June 17 shootings triggered calls for South Carolina to stop displaying the Confederate flag on the State House grounds in Columbia. REUTERS

4 NSA can resume bulk collection of phone records

The U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has ruled the National Security Agency may temporarily resume its bulk collection of Americans' domestic phone call records, the New York Times reported.

The program lapsed on June 1, when Section 215 of the Patriot Act expired. Congress revived that provision the following day with a bill called the Freedom Act, which said the provision could only be used for bulk collection for six months.

In May, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan had ruled that the Patriot Act did not authorize the NSA to collect Americans' phone records in bulk. REUTERS

5 JetBlue adds $20 checked bag fee per one-way trip

JetBlue Airways on Tuesday began charging its lowest-fare customers for checked bags, an anticipated move that leaves Southwest Airlines as the only U.S. carrier to let all travelers check a bag for free.

The New York-based carrier said travelers who book the lowest "Blue" fare can check a bag on a one-way trip for $20 during online check-in or $25 at an airport ticket counter. To avoid the charge, customers can book a "Blue Plus" fare that typically is $15 more than the base ticket price, it said. REUTERS

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2007 Dodge Charger SXT 89k Miles $8900, $177/Month
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As default looms. Merkel rules out more negotiations with Greece

She's had it up to there with Greece. / GETTY IMAGES

German Chancellor Angela Merkel ruled out new negotiations with Greece until after it votes on a proposal from creditors, leaving virtually no hope left to avert a midnight default despite a plea from Athens for a last-minute bailout extension.

Merkel said there could be no new negotiations until after a July 5 referendum that Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has called on an offer made last week by creditors, which Tsipras has told Greek voters to reject.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker appealed to Athens to accept the deal, while holding out hope that some extra tweaks could still be possible.

Tsipras, who says the creditors' proposals for pension cuts and tax hikes would ruin Greece, responded with a counterproposal requesting a two-year deal covering funding support and debt restructuring, an issue the lenders have so far been reluctant to tackle.

If no agreement is reached, Greece will default on a loan to the International Monetary Fund, setting it potentially on a path out of the euro with unforeseeable consequences for both the EU's grand currency project and the global economy.

As the final hours approached, the proposals appeared so far apart that success seemed highly unlikely, with one well-placed eurozone official saying there was "no way" eurozone finance ministers would release funds in time for the IMF payment.

Merkel, whose country is Greece's biggest creditor, made clear she believed time had run out. REUTERS

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Despite marriage equality, same-sex couples still face different financial obstacles than do heterosexual couples. / ISTOCK

What LGBT couples need to know about taxes

Money talk. Find out what marriage equality means for your finances.

Getting married is both an emotional decision and an economic one, something that same-sex couples in the states that have allowed them to legally wed have been finding out since 2004. Estate planning, taxes, Social Security benefits, health insurance and other financial issues have historically been enormously complicated for same-sex couples. For the last 10 years, things did not get that much clearer, especially for couples caught between federal and state rules.

Now with nationwide acceptance of marriage equality, thanks to the Supreme Court decision on Friday, will the financial picture finally be clear? Reuters spoke with experts in LGBT financial planning to find out the implications of the Supreme Court decision.

Is financial planning now exactly the same for same-sex couples as heterosexual couples?

Not quite. "I wish I could say marriage makes it easy, but it doesn't," says Jennifer Hatch, president and managing partner of Christopher Street Financial, based in New York. There are still lingering issues, particularly when there are children involved, such as second-parent adoption still not being legal in all states, though new challenges to those laws are likely.

Taxes are a big drawback to marriage. Should same-sex couples consider staying single in certain circumstances?

"For same-sex marriage, it's a win-win across every part of financial strategy except taxes," says financial planner Joshua Hatfield Charles, an ambassador for the CFP Board of Standards, an industry group. The so-called marriage penalty, which is the point at which married couples pay more in taxes than single filers, kicks in for a couple when they earn about $80,000 each, says Hatch. Two high-earning spouses (or just one high earner) need to consider the implications of being in a higher tax bracket, which can also involve being subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Do the tax implications outweigh the benefits of estate planning?

It depends on your situation, but probably not. Married couples have an unlimited marital exclusion to estate taxes, which means they are able to pass assets directly to a spouse upon death. Financial planners say this is a huge advance for same-sex couples — saving money, time and emotional distress. Additionally, marriage provides the opportunity to create spousal individual retirement accounts, which is a great protection to spouses who do not work, Charles says. REUTERS

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Aaron Paul is having fun with his phone, Miles Teller is on a Pink Floyd bender, Dana Delany is on the road, Mandy Moore is on the road, too, and Lena Dunham is sad about humanity.

@aaronpaul_8: Ask Siri "what is zero divided by zero?" RIGHT. NOW.

@Miles_Teller: I'm not sure there's ever been four consecutive albums better than Dark side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here, Animals & The Wall

@DanaDelany: Just another tourist.

@TheMandyMoore: London. Your traffic is NO JOKE. And I'm from Los Angeles. Golly goops.

@lenadunham: It's stressful that at some point some dude has listened to The Joker by Steve Miller Band and been like "this is sooo me"

WHAT A DIFFERENCE TEN YEARS MAKES.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 Ben and Jen end June on a down note

Remember a month ago when sources were saying that Ben Affleck wanted his and Jennifer Garner's divorce announcement to go out before their 10th anniversary on June 29? Well, they were certainly close. Turns out he really meant the day after, as the couple announced their intent to split up Tuesday, according to TMZ. "After much thought and careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to divorce," the statement reads. "We go forward with love and friendship for one another and a commitment to co-parenting our children whose privacy we ask to be respected during this difficult time. This will be our only comment on this private family matter. Thank you for understanding." I certainly understand your love for numerical simplicity, I'll grant you that. Married exactly 10 years? That takes precision.

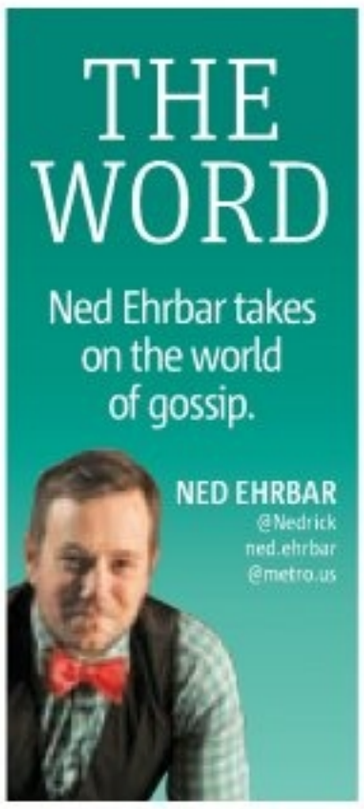
3 E.L. James takes some awkward questions

Social media can be an unruly beast, as there are always a ton of amateur humorists out there ready to pounce when people of note try to interact with the unfiltered masses. One such terrible idea found "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James offering to field fan questions live on Twitter this week, and I'm pretty sure she didn't appreciate all of the responses. But I sure did! Some of the best? "What's your favorite shade out of the 50? Is there a chance that more shades will be added?" "Is there a safe word we can use to get you to stop writing such drivel?" "Which do you hate more, women or the English language?" And some were just plain practical: "How on earth did Ana manage to graduate from university in the 21st century without an email address or a laptop?" Good point, reader.

So Iggy Azalea isn't pleased with the performance of her not-quite Song of the Summer team-up with Britney Spears, "Pretty Girls." In a candid Twitter Q&A post-mortem, Azalea faulted a lack of promotional push — from Spears and the label — for its being basically a flop. "It's difficult to send a song up the charts without additional promo and TV performances," she wrote in response to a fan. Azalea and Spears performed the song live together exactly once, at the Billboard Music Awards. Reactions to Azalea's comments suggesting she was throwing shade at Spears prompted the Australian to respond further, employing what could very well be a common Aussie expression but is just plain icky to American ears: "I don't have to suck the woman's a—hole 24/7 to be her friend, do I?"

2 Iggy and Britney 'Pretty Girls' Twitter feud is pretty boring

she wrote. Ew. And then Spears herself chimed in — indirectly, at least — with, "Can't wait to get back to Vegas. So thankful I have shows for the rest of the year to look forward to," along with the hashtag "you want a piece of me." So, you know, welcome to the most yawn-inducing feud of 2015. Yay?



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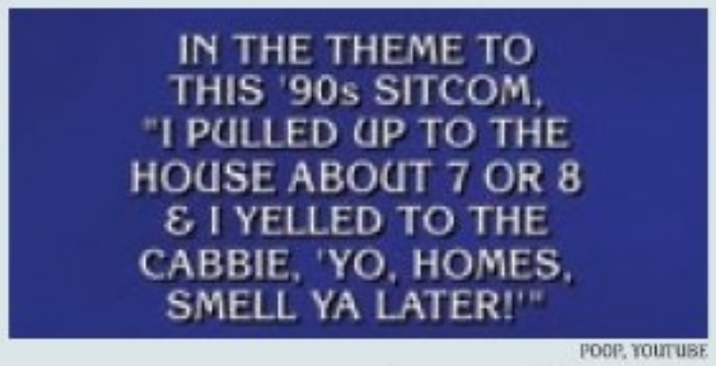

POOP, YOUTUBE

The Fresh Trebek of Bel Air

This bootleg clip from "Jeopardy!" is only 18 seconds long, but that's all you need to fully bask in the awesomeness that is host Alex Trebek's spirited, throaty rendition of a snippet from the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" theme song. Seriously, he goes practically Shakespearean on Will Smith's greatest work. I may even make his "Yo, Homes, smell ya later" my ringtone. Wait, do people still have ringtones?

4 Stan Lee wants Spidey to stay straight and white

Remember that hubbub about leaked contracts for Sony and Marvel detailing how Peter Parker and Spider-Man must remain Caucasian and heterosexual? It turns out the character's co-creator, former Marvel honcho Stan Lee, concurs. "The only thing I don't like doing is changing the characters we already have," he tells E! News. "I'd like Spider-Man to stay as he is, but I have no problem creating a superhero who's homosexual. I have no problem with having a black one, a Latino one, a Chinese one, anything — the whole world is our playground. The whole world has heroes we can draw from. I'm just not too happy changing what has already been established." I can't tell if this is more "some of my best superhero friends are black" or more "stop trying to redefine traditional superheroes." I guess we'll have to wait for the Supreme Court on this one.

TV watch list

Is that the cake? We were promised a cake on "Masterchef." / GREG GAYNE

TALK SHOW

'Conan'

Perpetually entertaining person Maya Rudolph stops by to talk to Conan, as does comedian Hannibal Buress, who we hope has some thoughts on Season 3 of "Broad City." **11 P.M., TBS**

MOVIES

'Back to the Future'

A cool young dude in the '80s is forced by an eccentric old man to time travel back to the '50s, where he has to make his parents fall in love. No, it's not a horror movie. **7:30 P.M., AMC**

'The Terminator'

This movie may be 30 years old now, but it remains a pretty solid action movie. Who knew a remorseless killing machine could be so terrifying? Oh right, that's a pretty easy answer. **8 P.M., BBC AMERICA**

REALITY

'Masterchef'

The show celebrates 100 episodes tonight with a fancy meal, and the losing team has to make a big layer cake. We're confused about who "loses" when someone makes a cake. **8 P.M., FOX** LISA WEIDENFELD

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‘Magic Mike XXL’ is the ideal summer movie

Review

‘Magic Mike XXL’

Director: Gregory Jacobs

Stars: Channing Tatum, Joe Manganiello

Rating: R

There is dancing without shirts in “Magic Mike XXL,” sometimes.
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

There’s a butt shot in the opening minutes of “Magic Mike XXL,” and it’s not even Channing Tatum’s — and there won’t be another. Them’s the breaks, but if this semi-super-sized sequel is less naughty than the first, then it’s also a little sexier, definitely sillier and less serious, lacking the drug deal subplot that made its predecessor a mite reactionary. It’s also more melancholic, but not in a way that ruins the fun. In fact, this is escapist cinema about escapism. The old gang of strippers, including Tatum’s whimsically returning Mike, wants a diversion, and what better diversion is there than a mindless summer movie that gives what it promised — namely, ripped flesh delivered gyrating to bass-heavy hits and, at one point, to a Nine Inch Nails song about really intense lovemaking?

The boys don’t want to just go through old routines, and neither does the film. The first was about stripping as a job; “XXL” is about stripping as a passion. This is all for fun — a goofy road trip movie rather than a semi-gritty backstage drama — but in the back of the mind is the awareness that this is, if not the last hurrah, then among them. Mike and company know they’re trading on that most unreliable object: the human body. It even has the exact same ending as “Ocean’s Eleven” — another film where the glories of a job well done turn unexpectedly bittersweet. But with armies of six packs.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Sequel. ‘T5’ is a modern riff on a classic, for better and for worse

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a terminator more gray than himself in “Terminator: Genisys.” / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

In the fifth “Terminator,” Arnold Schwarzenegger says “I’ll be back” once but “I’m old, not obsolete” at least three times. Like “Jurassic World,” this latest exhuming of a very old franchise is acutely aware of itself and, more to the point, aware of its own potential irrelevancy. For better but mostly for worse, it fits right into the modern blockbuster: Like a Marvel film, it’s a hodgepodge of stuff, mixing in brainless plotting, transitory thrills and nostalgia for a happier time of less sloppy blockbusters, including 1984, the year of “The Terminator.”

Indeed, “Terminator: Genisys” begins by flat-out recreating the first one. Once again post-apocalyptic savior John Connor (now Jason Clarke) has sent bud Kyle Reese (now Jai Courtney) back to 1984 to save/knock up his mom (now Emilia Clarke). Then there’s lots of time-hopping, eventually dragging our heroes plus Ah-nuld’s nice T-800 to 2017 to stop evil Skynet, again. Things get complicated, but don’t confuse this with “Primer.” The script treats everything, including a couple of admittedly decent plot hooks, like mere quickie sensations in a film jam-packed with them. Still, better thoughtless than the relentlessly dour “Terminator: Salvation.” It vies for a twist-a-thon a la “T2,” but it lacks that film’s precision, and its only great pleasure may be Arnold trying to repeatedly wrap his mouth around the word “cellular.” MP

Review

‘Terminator: Genisys’

Director: Alan Taylor

Stars: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Emilia Clarke

Rating: PG-13

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Manic panic

Film. Mark Ruffalo explores bipolar fatherhood with indie "Infinitely Polar Bear."

Mark Ruffalo, Imogene Wolodarsky and Ashley Aufderheide in "Infinitely Polar Bear." / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Delving into a character with mental illness can be a tricky business, but Mark Ruffalo had a unique avenue of research for his latest, "Infinitely Polar Bear." First-time writer-director Maya Forbes hired Ruffalo to pretty much play her late father.

The indie calls on Ruffalo to portray Cam Stuart, struggling to raise his two daughters in 1970s Boston while his wife (fellow Marvel stablemate Zoe Saldana) heads to graduate school in New York, and his manic depression wreaks havoc on everyday life.

"I have bipolar family members, so it wasn't totally out of left field," Ruffalo says. "Then I met Maya and started hearing the stories about Cam and watching his Super 8 movies. It just felt like, 'OK, I think I know the way into this.' It feels right to me, and it's not a glossed-over, gilded version that as I get into doing research about, I'm going to find some totally different person, and then there's going to be some conflict between me and Maya about that."

RUFFALO
GETTY IMAGES

In fact, conflict with Forbes was happily minimal. Ruffalo found her to be incredibly collaborative, something he holds in high regard. "I'd have my moments of rebellion, as any actor should at some point or another, but never felt like our views of it were divergent," he says. "All the great directors that I've worked with are able to take collaboration without being threatened by it. But it's atypical to first-time directors, that openness, to have that kind of strong vision that you're confident to take collaboration from everybody."

For Ruffalo, although the film puts Cam's bipolar disorder front and center, it was important that it didn't totally define the character. "If you have a guy who's an a—hole who's in a wheelchair, he's still an a—hole. And if you have a really nice person in a wheelchair, they're still a really nice person," Ruffalo says. "Yes, who they are is informed by having to live in that wheelchair, but to some degree, who that person is is essentially who they are, and bipolar is something that swings in and out of their life. So for me, the really important thing was getting the specifics of Cam, who Cam was. Cam was this person who had a lot of really interesting qualities about him and would've been a really interesting person without being bipolar. That was the impediment that the family had to deal with."

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Souring on Sundance

Despite the time he's been devoting to playing an Avenger, Mark Ruffalo still has his feet firmly planted in the independent film world. Last year, for instance, he had a trio of dramas making the festival rounds with "Begin Again," "Foxcatcher" and "Infinitely Polar Bear." That last one, in fact, made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival, a venue Ruffalo knows very well — though the shine might be coming off the Utah-based winter retreat for him. "The sense of competition at Sundance, I think, can be a little toxic amongst the filmmakers," he says. "And then everyone's there trying to sell a movie."

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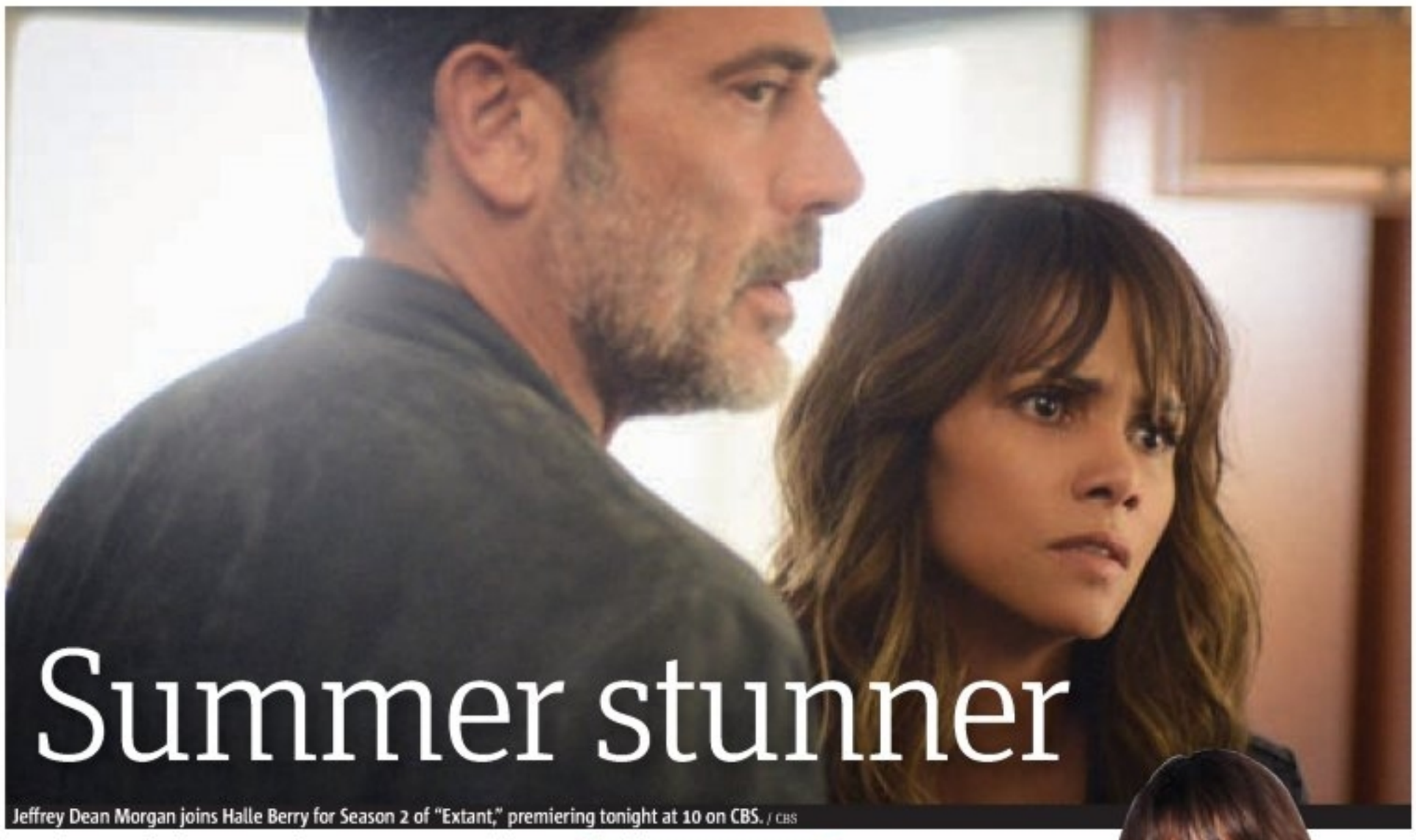
Sci-fi. Halle Berry spends another season on TV with 'Extant.'



Summer stunner

Jeffrey Dean Morgan joins Halle Berry for Season 2 of "Extant," premiering tonight at 10 on CBS. / CBS

Last summer, astronaut Molly Woods (Halle Berry) thought she'd saved humanity from certain doom, but of course that's not the case — or else there wouldn't be a Season 2 for "Extant," Berry's first foray into network television, which returns tonight. So what has Berry learned since finishing her freshman year on television?

"It is a whole lot of work. I mean, I've never worked so hard in my life as last year," Berry says. "And I was nursing. My baby was 3 months old, so I was doing drive-by nursings every two hours. I would go into my trailer, nurse for 10 minutes and off I was — and I was in over my head with the amount of scenes we shoot in a day, the things I had to memorize."

Needless to say, Season 2 was a much smoother experience. "This year, without having the baby nursing, is indelibly better than last year," she says. "But it was an awakening last year. I thought, 'I'm going to go into TV, be at home with my family.' I didn't see my family and I never worked harder in my life. Hats off to everybody who does TV, because it's a grind."

When Oscar winner Berry signed up for the show last year, it was big news — despite her being far from the first big-screen star to make the transition. But Berry insists there was no hesitation in her decision. "Not in this day and age. Maybe 10 years ago I would have had cause to pause. But the best things, in my opinion, are on television," she says. "As artists, we want to share what we do with the world, and this is a really good medium to do that in because the best things are on TV now, in my humble opinion."

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About that robot kid

"Extant" features Halle Berry's character grappling with having a robot son, Ethan, who ended up relegated to the cloud at the end of Season 1. Recent upgrades in Berry's own life have changed how she approaches that on-screen relationship this season.

"Now that I have a son, I really do see the difference in relationship from having a little girl and having a boy and the special relationship that mothers and sons have," she says. "I'm happy in our show this year that Ethan and I get to continue to explore what that relationship might be with a twist, because he is a robot. Does he take the place of a real child? Well, that's something that our show is going to explore throughout how many seasons we're lucky enough to go. That's the burning question: Can a robot have humanity? Can they love? Can they have a human exchange?"

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Fourth of July essentials

Whether you're at a picnic, barbecue or lounging poolside — here's everything you need to celebrate in style. **TINA CHADHA**

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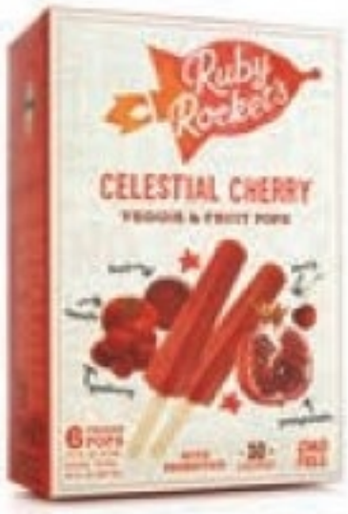

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Updating the patio or terrace

"Patio and terrace upgrades make up 23 percent of all home renovations, which is pretty significant," Sitchinava says. This could include everything from redoing the floorboards to adding a fire pit — the kinds of things that increase the value on a home.

Millennials love a good fire pit.
HOUZZ, ANDREW SNOW PHOTOGRAPHY

Love where you live

Five millennial home renovation trends

A new Houzz survey finds that millennials aren't only buying homes, they're customizing them for a one-of-a-kind feel. Here, we highlight what they are busy doing.

EMILY LAURENCE
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Ever the overachievers, 20- and 30-something home buyers aren't waiting until midlife to give their home an upgrade — they're starting right away. Houzz, an online platform for all things home remodeling and design, just released a new survey highlighting the biggest renovation projects their 30 million active users focused on in 2014.

Upgrading lighting

One of the survey's biggest findings is that millennials aren't willing to pay as much as older generations when it comes to revamping their home. Switching up a room's lighting is a project that's pretty easy yet hugely affects a room. According to the survey, 31 percent of homeowners plan to upgrade their lighting in the next six months. Whether it's replacing an old fixture with something more modern or tweaking the electrical to incorporate a dimming feature, this is a upgrade that really doesn't take up much time.

Upgrading lighting is an easy way to give a room a "wow" transformation.
DURHAM INTERIOR DESIGNERS & DECORATORS, HEATHER GARRETT DESIGN

Kitchens are consistently a focus for home renovators of all generations.
HOUZZ, LOUISE DE MIRANDA

Remodeling the kitchen or bathroom

"The kitchen and bathroom have traditionally been a main focus for renovation, and it's no different for millennials," says Nancy Sitchinava, the principal economist at Houzz. "The big thing they're upgrading in the kitchen are appliances, cabinets and countertops," she says.

Installing charging stations

One thing a millennial's dream home has: lots of outlets. Sitchinava tells us that a past Houzz survey focusing on kitchens and bathrooms found that millennials are customizing these rooms to have more outlets and laptop charging stations. It makes sense that if you're reading a recipe off your tablet, an extra outlet would come in handy since appliances often take up the ones already there.

Modern homes have plenty of charging stations. ALEXANDRIA GENERAL CONTRACTORS, HARRY BRASWELL INC.

Landscaping

Another renovation that transforms a home but isn't too expensive is yard work. "Upgrading the lawn makes up 20 percent of all renovations," Sitchinava says. "It's something that everyone across all generations is looking at and tackling," she says. The difference for millennials is that while they aren't into the idea of hiring a contractor, as older generations tend to do, they are into hiring someone to do the actual dirty work, like pruning and planting.

Outdoor landscaping is a relatively simple way to upgrade a property.
HOUZZ, KAYLA STARK

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Life Center members pool their rent money to maintain the eight homes. ALL PHOTOS KAREN KIRCHHOFF

Let's live together and feel all right

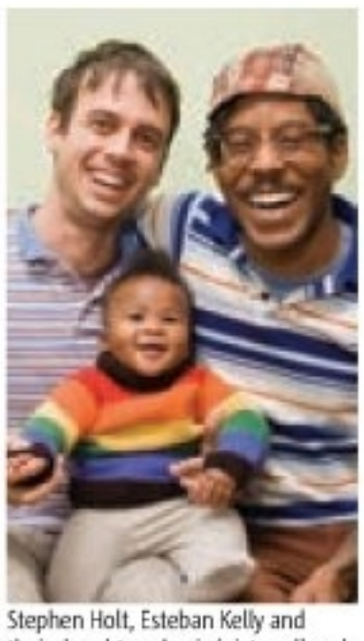
Don't call it a commune. The Life Center Association is a model of "resource sharing."

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The Movement for a New Society, an activist group devoted to nonviolent principles, started to disband in the '80s, but its West Philly members stuck with the organization's ideals. They turned a collection of houses into a housing cooperative and nonprofit called the Life Center Association, and it still runs today.

But they're not just latter-day hippies.

"It's living in a shared space, under one roof, and having mutual shared resources — really sharing all of the economic pieces of living together," says Esteban Kelly, 34. He's lived in a Life Center home for 10 years, and has been president of the organization. He's now the board president of the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance.



Stephen Holt, Esteban Kelly and their daughters Anaïs (pictured) and Saskia live in a Life Center house in West Philadelphia.

"I think collective living is misrepresented as just young single people living together," he says, "and often unintentionally and without a lot of structure. It's really about resource sharing."

The Life Center has eight houses within the co-op framework.

"We break down to two different families," says Kelly of his house. "There are three children and seven adults; one of those adults is not related to anyone else. I think it's grounded and anchored in the multigenerational aspect. It keeps things really high-functioning."

Rhone Fraser, 35, has been living in a West Philly Life Center house since last year. He lives with five other people.

"It's been very educational for me in terms of working together," says Fraser. "In a collective, consensus is honored and discussion is honored. Debate is honored. That's different from a rooming house where everyone has their own agenda."

How does it work?

When it comes to something like hiring a plumber for one house, everyone within the Life Center has some kind of involvement in making sure that anything wrong gets fixed as democratically as possible.

"Seventy to 80 percent of our budget goes towards a maintenance pool," says Kelly. "Individual houses could write a proposal, and the board has the authority to allocate money."

The amount of rent due is divided almost equally among the residents of Life Center houses. The money collected is then pooled to maintain all of the properties.

"I think it is a model for the future of what Americans in this economic recession should do, in terms of learning how to live together," says Fraser.

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Horoscope

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Simmering relationship issues will boil over. Be willing to compromise and take others' feelings into consideration.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
If you have been procrastinating about beginning a health program, now is the perfect day to get started. Take small steps and you will improve your strength.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You will get results if you put your anxiety aside and take the initiative to make things happen. Don't procrastinate; be bold.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Unwanted changes at home will end in your favor. You can relieve tension if you let go of old issues and head into the future.

♏ Scorpio |Oct. 23-Nov. 21
There are proven methods that will help you achieve your goals. Do research and you will find useful facts.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Financial matters must be monitored carefully. Be sensitive to the needs of an elderly family member. Your patience and understanding will be appreciated and handsomely rewarded.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your mood swings will be difficult. Be clear about your needs, and strive to avoid emotional outbursts.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Carefree spending habits will offer a temporary lift, but will result in chaos if you go over budget. You need to consider what is bothering you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
There are plenty of people willing to provide you with the information you are looking for. Exciting times lie ahead, so put your best foot forward.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Remember that jealousy is usually behind criticism. Those who are most vocal about your shortcomings are trying to cover up their own inadequacies.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
This is not the time to refuse invitations to social or community events. You will meet someone who will become very special to you.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Fatigue will slow you down, causing you to fall short of your goals. Avoid exertion, and concentrate on challenges. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

6				3	7			8
7		8					6	4
			2			1	7	
5				1		2		
		2		7		6		
		4		5				7
	9	5			1			
2	6					9		5
3			5	6				2

1				2	7		5	9
	7			6		1		
9						2	7	
		1	6					
	8		5		3		1	
					2	8		
	1	6						7
		8		5			2	
4	2		7	8				3

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Nobody feels sorry for her

Re: 'Holly Madison's shocking Playboy confessions' (Metro, June 30)
I am the father of two, a son and a daughter. After reading Ms. Madison's story, I am confused. Is she upset at herself? Is Mr. Hefner to blame? Or society? My wife and I, as parents, are trying to teach our daughter to be responsible for herself and to make good decisions. From what has been written so far, Ms. Madison made poor decisions and now wants pity or sympathy. If a person is not threatened or forced into something then it is their fault. To rewrite or try to justify it is only deception of the self. Feel free to correct me if I am wrong.
WILLIAM GORE JR., VIA EMAIL

Default is good

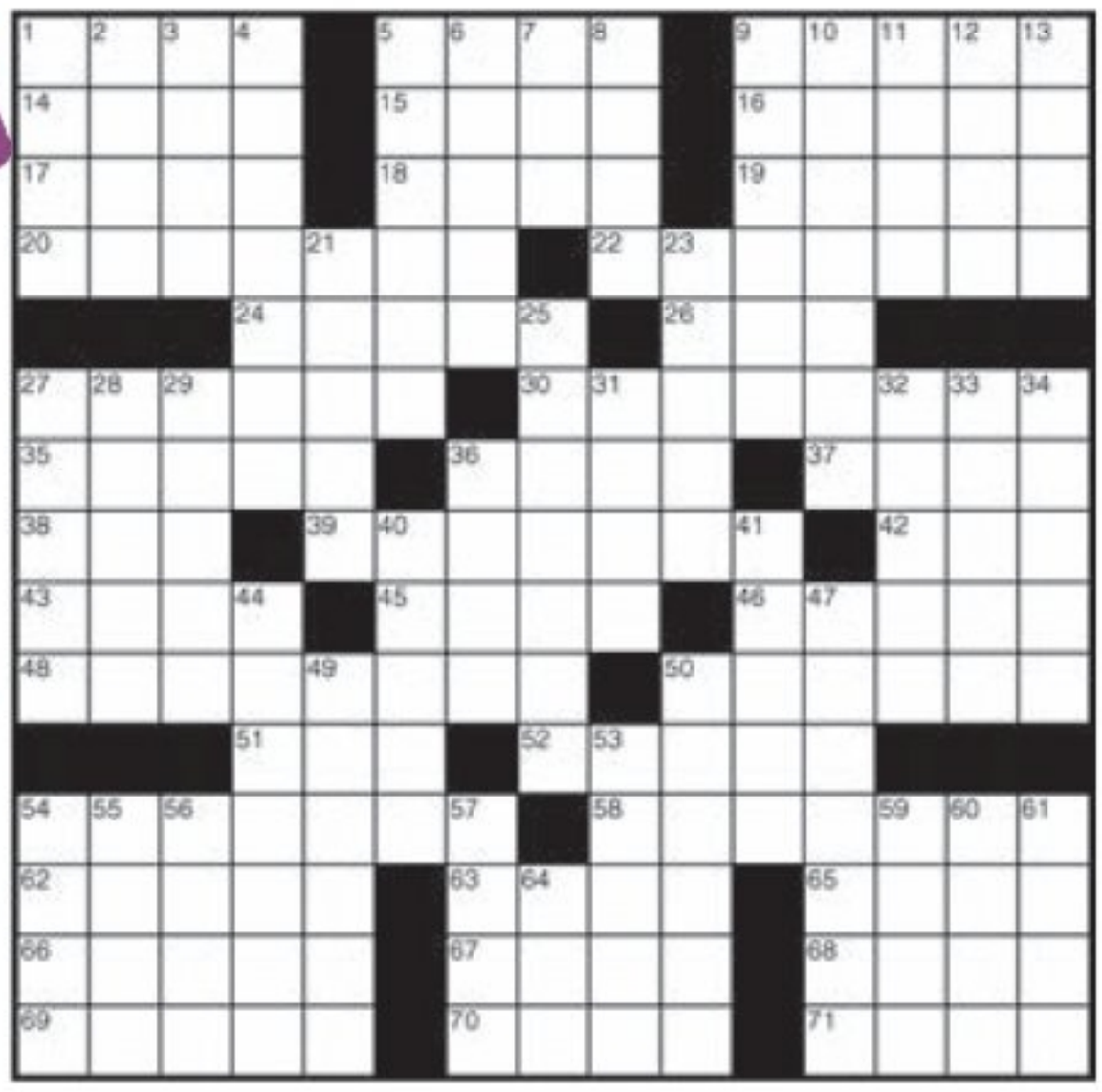
Greek debt default is a good thing. It keeps the current money borrowed from the IMF in circulation. If the Greeks did pay back the money loaned, there would be no money in circulation. Money, representing real value, loaned from person to person, is based on good faith and personal responsibility to repay. However, when banks lend, they DO NOT lend actual money based on real value but on credit, the promise to pay in the future. The so-called borrower creates NEW deposits, i.e., NEW MONEY. According to the Bank of England's Spring 2014 report, paying back this loan "destroys" the money in circulation.
DAVID SNIECKUS, VIA EMAIL

Crossword

Across
1 Egg portion
5 Dressed
9 Sherlock portrayer
14 Lotion additive
15 Airy prefix
16 Bring cheer
17 Orchard product
18 Foul mood
19 Phones
20 Overnight guest's spot (2 wds.)
22 Catch off guard
24 Follows closely
26 Ostrich kin
27 Sea between Italy and Greece
30 They get out early
35 Vista
36 Dry, as bubbly
37 Prove
38 Fritz's sigh
39 Pure pleasure
42 NASA counterpart
43 Mystique
45 Poolroom supply
46 Be of benefit
48 Falls apart
50 Forever, to Keats
51 Car grill cover
52 Doctrine
54 In — (actually)
58 Threw around
62 Heston title role (2 wds.)
63 Not pro
65 Road rally
66 Hurl forcefully
67 Pirate's chest?
68 Turkish official
69 Swamp grass
70 Glimpse
71 Flashy sign

Down
1 Puppy cries
2 Ersatz butter
3 Laze around
4 Hair and nails protein
5 — — point (example)
6 Ivan of the courts
7 Jackie's tycoon
8 Flecks
9 Looked good on
10 Warnings, old-style
11 Road crew's supply
12 "— never fly!"
13 — -majeste
21 Sounded sheepish?
23 Some canines
25 Most nimble
27 Newton or Asimov
28 Happen
29 Gandhi associate
31 Home furnishings
32 "That's not what — —!"
33 Lab slide dye
34 Marshy tract
36 Rainbow band
40 Dazzling success
41 Spud
44 Moseying about
47 No tyro, this
49 Catwalk
50 Thing
53 Bar legally
54 Umps
55 Fashion mag
56 Rolaids target
57 Connecticut campus
59 "Minimum" amount
60 Canyon reply
61 Faculty honcho
64 Refusals

Yesterday's answer



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SPORTS

2015-16 Flyers

Flyers to honor Timonen

Among the bevy of Flyers special events this upcoming season, the team will honor Kimmo Timonen with a retirement ceremony on Oct. 14 prior to their game against Chicago. Philly will also induct Jimmy Watson and Rod Brind'Amour to the team's hall of fame.

Sixers made the smart choice in drafting Okafor

NBA. The 76ers continue to take steps forward during painfully slow rebuild.

Duke's Okafor brings a championship pedigree to Philly. / GETTY IMAGES

When the NBA Draft began, the 76ers desperately needed a guard to run their offense. They still do.

When the Los Angeles Lakers decided to select Ohio State's D'Angelo Russell with the No. 2 overall pick, the Sixers quickly changed course and they went big. How can you blame them?

You take the best available player and worry later.

Duke freshman Jahlil Okafor was simple too good to pass up and he ultimately joined the Sixers at No. 3.

If Nerlens Noel, Okafor and Joel Embiid can all co-exist, it's a very strong frontcourt for coach Brett Brown. Embiid's recovery from a foot injury has been slower than expected, but if he can get healthy, it's fascinating to project this group of big men down the road. The Sixers have a bevy of picks next year, so a guard could be waiting. For now, it's about being happy and worrying later.

Quoted

"As long as I can remember, big men have been dominant, and the results have been championships"

New 76ers center Jahlil Okafor

Okafor, who won a national championship at Duke, is happy to be the Sixers' next big man.

"Now, they are saying, you don't need a big man," Okafor told reporters at his introductory news conference at PCOM. "But as far as I can remember, a big man has dominated the NBA. Tim Duncan won it (in 2014). It was all about the big men with Pau Gasol and Kevin Garnett."

Overall, the Sixers' draft class improved their roster, especially with the addition of Okafor. In the second round, the Sixers selected the likes of Bowling Green forward Richuan Holmes, Lithuanian center Arturas Gudaitis, North Carolina guard J.P. Tokoto and Serbian forward Luka Mitrovic. Gudaitis and Mitrovic are likely to be stashed overseas. Of this group, Tokoto appears to have the most upside.

The Sixers' rebuild took an interesting turn with the addition of Okafor. This season may not produce many more wins than last year's 18-64 mark. But stocking the roster with another talented big man who can play now is immense.

"One of the things about Jahlil is something we don't see a lot in our league right now and it's the ability of someone to draw double teams," General Manager Sam Hinkie told reporters. "That's something he can do and you don't find too many players with hands like his, who can catch so many balls thrown his way and can be a pick-and-roll player. That's why you'll see so many players who have played against him and so many coaches rave about him."

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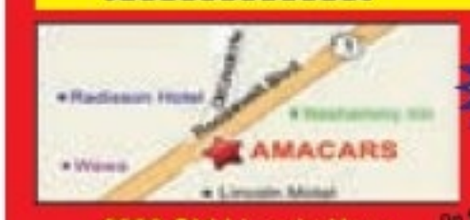

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5 Free agent guards the Sixers will be looking at

NBA Danny Green, Wesley Matthews and others will be on Philly's radar when free agency starts.

As Jahlil Okafor crossed the stage as the Sixers No. 3 pick this past Thursday in New York, fans and media members alike began to criticize Sam Hinkie for his selection based on the current roster makeup. With Okafor, Joel Embiid and Nerlens Noel all standing 6-foot-11 or taller, many were quick to point out the position disparity that exists on the roster.

With just Tony Wroten, JaKarr Sampson (team option) and Isaiah Canaan (team option) as the only guards left standing under contract, the team will need to spend money in free agency to balance things out and add depth to the Sixers' limited backcourt. Here are five reasonable free agent targets for the team at the guard positions.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
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5 Wesley Matthews, SG

At 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, Matthews has the build of a prototypical NBA shooting guard. He's a defense-first, three-point specialist who could really stretch the floor for the Sixers. He could've fetched a huge deal in free-agency this summer, but a torn Achilles back in February has limited his market value this summer considerably. Matthews averaged 15.9 points and 3.7 rebounds per game last season while shooting nearly 39 percent from the three-point line. The Sixers have plenty of money to offer him and his asking price is reportedly around $15 million per season.

WESLEY MATTHEWS
GETTY IMAGES

4 Danny Green, SG

Brett Brown has long-time ties to the Spurs as well as to Green. A coach of Green's as an assistant to the Spurs in 2010-2013, Brown's teaching can be accredited for the development and success of Green in his young career. The 6-foot-6, 215-pound shooting guard seems to be the odd man out in San Antonio, which is looking to lock both Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge to large contracts this summer, but he'd be a welcome addition to the Sixers roster. Green's another "3-and-D" player who will draw a large offer this summer. Green averaged 11.7 points and 4.2 rebounds this past season on nearly 42 percent shooting from beyond the arc. His asking price may be higher than Matthews', due to a clean bill of health, but don't be surprised to see Hinkie make an offer here for the talented swingman when free agency begins.

Green's long-distance shooting skills can really help Philly. / GETTY IMAGES

3 Patrick Beverley, PG

Beverley is one of the most skilled defensive point guards in the NBA, but durability issues have restricted his playing time and the verdict is still very much out on whether he can be a team's No. 1 option. He had surgery in March to repair a torn ligament in his left wrist, which kept him out of the Rockets' entire postseason run to the Western Conference finals. Before the wrist injury, right elbow, hamstring and knee issues had plagued the 6-foot-1, 185-pound point guard out of Arkansas. His solid defense earned him NBA All-Defensive second-team honors in 2013-14. The Rockets can match any offer for Beverley, who is a restricted free agent, but Hinkie might just be able to steal him away from his pal Daryl Morey at the right price.

2 Ish Smith, PG

Should the Sixers just keep the point guard position in-house? Smith made a valiant effort at playing the position last year for the team, averaging 12.0 points, 6.1 assists and 2.9 rebounds over the final 25 games of the season. Worth noting as well, he made Nerlens Noel noticeably better on the court. Noel averaged 14.2 points, 11.2 rebounds, 2.4 steals and 2.2 blocks in March, which featured Smith getting starting minutes at point guard. If they can get Smith for cheap, there's no reason for Hinkie not to bring him back next season.

ISH SMITH
GETTY IMAGES

1 Cory Joseph, PG

The Spurs are committed to Tony Parker through 2017-18 at point guard, so this might be the perfect time for Hinkie to strike for a value guy like Joseph. Joseph averaged just 6.8 points, 2.4 assists and 2.4 rebounds last season for the Spurs, but filled in admirably for Parker when he was sidelined with a hamstring injury to start the season.

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MacPhail first outsider to lead Phillies since team's inception

MLB. Metro takes a look back at the accomplishments, or lack thereof, of recent Phillies presidents.

With the announcement that Andy MacPhail will replace Pat Gillick as Phillies' president after this season, it seems like a good time to take a look at the history of the position and how it has evolved with the team over the years.

From the team's inception in 1883 through 1913, seven different men held the position. Then for the next 30 years, there were four presidents. And from 1943 until Pat Gillick replaced David Montgomery in 2014, the club was again stewarded by just four men. For a team for whom success has been so brief and so sparse, this lineage of decision-makers does fit the public perception that the Phillies are too complacent, showing loyalty not just to aging players but to executives who aren't overseeing good results.

Here's a brief review of the Phillies under the four most recent presidents (excluding Gillick) and the men who worked for them.

1943 to 1972 Bob Carpenter: Carpenter became team president at the age of 28, when his father purchased the team. He assumed GM duties in 1948 following the death of GM and Hall of Fame pitcher Herb Pennock. His tenure would see the height of the 1950 Whiz Kids, who won the NL pennant on the efforts of Richie Ashburn, Del Ennis, Robin Roberts and league MVP Jim Konstanty, to date the only relief pitcher to win the award. But the team would eventually succumb to the Yankees in the World Series. This era also saw the blowup of the "Fizz Kids," who relinquished a six-and-a-half game lead in the pennant race before losing ten games in a row.

Just two Phils presidents, Dave Montgomery and Ruly Carpenter, have hoisted a World Series trophy. / GETTY IMAGES

1972 to 1981 Ruly Carpenter: Ruly succeeded his father in 1972. This coincided with the elevation of Paul Owens to GM and would set the table for one of the most successful periods in team history. The Phillies won four of five division titles from 1976 to 1980 before breaking through and defeating the Royals in the 1980 World Series behind MVP Mike Schmidt and Cy Young winner Steve Carlton. In 1981, however, the Carpenter family sold the Phillies.

1981 to 1997 Bill Giles: Giles' tenure began with the purchase of the Phillies by the current ownership group, which included himself. It also began with the continued success of the 1980 World Champions, who, though they did not win another World Series, reached the 1983 Series before bowing out to the Orioles. This was a barren period for the team, and the only winning season between 1986 and 2001 was the fondly remembered 1993 team. The club overcame a last-place finish in 1992 to lead their division wire-to-wire in 1993 and reach the World Series before heartbreak hit once again.

1997 to 2014 David Montgomery: Montgomery's reign saw, like much of the Phillies' history, both ends of the spectrum. The poor play of the '90s extended through the beginning of his time. But in 1998 Ed Wade assumed the role of GM, and coupled with the strong drafting of Mike Arbuckle, the Phillies' fortunes began to change. While the major league Phillies were either enduring losing seasons or, in the early 2000s under Larry Bowa, coming close to the playoffs but never quite reaching them, the generation that would ultimately lead the Phillies to their second World Series title was being drafted and cutting their teeth in the minors. There may have been a lot of "almosts" in those years, but fans could rest assured: Jimmy Rollins, Brett Myers, Cole Hamels, Ryan Howard and Chase Utley were on their way. It is a stark contrast to the years at the end of Montgomery's era, when results again turned south, and there were no minor leaguers to look to for future salvation.

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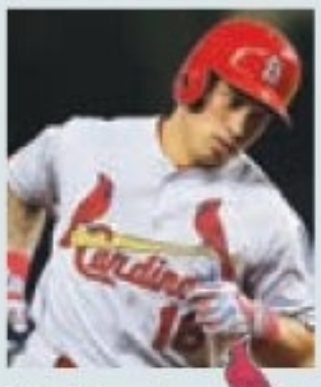

Cardinals (51-24)

The Cardinals have the best record in baseball, and have extended their lead. St. Louis has now won six straight and eight of its last 10. The Cards lead the NL Central by nine games and the team with the second-best record in the NL has 43 wins.

No. 2

Royals (44-29)

After a subpar stretch, the Royals have rebounded, winning six of their last 10, and they now have the best record in the AL. Mike Moustakas continues to perform at the plate, batting .317.

No. 3

Dodgers (43-35)

The Dodgers have a plus-62 run differential, the second-best mark in the NL, but they only lead the Giants by half a game in the NL West. They are just 16-22 on the road.

No. 4

Pirates (42-33)

If the Pirates were in any other division in the National League, they would be in first place. Unfortunately for them, they are in the NL Central and nine games behind the Cardinals.

No. 5

Nationals (42-34)

Washington has won eight of its last 10 games to open a 2.5-game lead in the division. Max Scherzer continues to shine with nine wins and a 1.79 ERA, the second-best mark in the NL.

No. 6

Giants (42-35)

The Giants have won seven of their last 10 games to now trail the Dodgers by only half a game in the NL West. Brandon Crawford's 3.9 WAR is the fifth-best mark in the National League.

No. 7

Astros (41-31)

The Astros are no longer the best team in the AL, but they still lead the AL West by four games. Their plus-54 run differential is the second-best mark in the AL. Starter Dallas Keuchel has nine wins.

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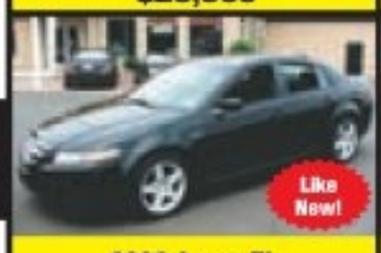

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Does your child get powerful **MOOD SWINGS?**

A bipolar disorder research study for children and teens ages 10-17 is enrolling now.

✓ Investigational medication
✓ Study-related care from a local doctor
✓ Possible compensation for time & travel

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For more information, call toll-free **1.877.946.7582** or visit PRAHS.com

www.metro.us

Do you have *or do you know* someone who has

PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

If so, please contact us about our research study of an investigational drug.

Insurance is not required to participate in our research study.

Qualified participants must:
- Be 30 to 80 years of age
- Have Parkinson's disease

Qualified participants receive:
- Study-related care and study medication at no cost
- Compensation up to $4,440 for time and travel

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For more information call toll-free **1-866-628-3386** or visit PRAHS.com

The STEADi (Study To Evaluate an Adolescent Depression Investigational drug) clinical research study is being done to find out if an investigational drug is safe and if and how well it works for adolescents who have major depressive disorder (MDD). The study will last for about 10 weeks and there will be about 9 study visits. Study participation is voluntary.

You may be eligible to join the study if you:
- Are 12 to 17 years old
- Have been diagnosed with MDD or have been having feelings of depression for at least the past 6 weeks

To learn more:

PRAHEALTHSCIENCES
1-888-682-2579

STEADi